3-month summary

- Stormy conditions, and impacts from high winds, are more likely than normal
- Higher-than-normal chance of this period being wet
- Impacts from heavy rainfall are possible
- The period is very unlikely to be cold overall
- However, cold spells remain possible and may bring wintry hazards

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

5% chance the season will be COLD	50% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	45% chance the season will be MILD
0.3× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance	2.3× the normal chance

Precipitation

15% chance the season will be DRY	40% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	45% chance the season will be WET
0.8× the normal chance	0.7× the normal chance	2.3× the normal chance

Wind speed

10% chance the season will be CALM	40% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	50% chance the season will be WINDY
0.5× the normal chance	0.7× the normal chance	2.5× the normal chance

1-month summary

- The chance of a cold month is much less likely than normal
- Nevertheless, colder spells are still possible and may bring wintry hazards
- The chance of a wet month is greater than normal, especially in the north of the UK
- Impacts from heavy rainfall are possible
- Stormy conditions, and impacts from high winds, are more likely than normal

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

5% chance the month will be COLD	45% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	50% chance the month will be MILD
0.3× the normal chance ▼	0.8× the normal chance ▼	2.5× the normal chance ▲

Precipitation

20% chance the month will be DRY	50% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	30% chance the month will be WET
1.0× the normal chance ▲▼	0.8× the normal chance ▼	1.5× the normal chance ▲

Wind speed

20% chance the month will be CALM	50% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	30% chance the month will be WINDY
1.0× the normal chance ▲▼	0.8× the normal chance ▼	1.5× the normal chance ▲

Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature, precipitation and wind speed in the next 1 and 3 months:

COLD, NEAR AVERAGE and MILD for temperature
WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation
CALM, NEAR AVERAGE and WINDY for wind speed

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE MILD COLD MILD NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE MILD NEAR AVERAGE MILD
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WET NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WET
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WINDY NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE CALM NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE COLD MILD NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE MILD MILD MILD
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WET NEAR AVERAGE WET DRY WET
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WINDY NEAR AVERAGE WINDY NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for February to April
Global weather patterns can affect UK weather during the coming season and their influence acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:
• The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends
• The moderate La Niña event over the coming months, increasing the chance of westerly winds over the UK
• A westerly phase of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO) in the tropical stratosphere, which increases the likelihood of westerly winds from the Atlantic Ocean
• A stronger-than-usual stratospheric polar vortex, which favours westerly winds early in the period
• An active Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) in the tropics, which is in a phase favouring westerly winds in early February

Long-range weather predictions
The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range forecasts of conditions in the months ahead. During the coming 3-month period, predictions show an increase in the likelihood of pressure being higher than average near or to the south of the UK, with lower-than-average pressure to the north of the UK. This pattern is linked to winds blowing more frequently from the Atlantic Ocean; hence they show a reduced likelihood of a cold period and an increased chance of wet and windy conditions.

Impacts
The chance of impacts from windy or even stormy weather is increased compared to normal, particularly during February and March, which tend to have more potential for wind than April. The increased chance of storms gives rise to greater risk of ‘storm clustering’, with consecutive events affecting the UK in quick succession. Additionally, there is an increased likelihood of wetter-than-average conditions for the UK, with the greatest risks of heavy rainfall in the north and west. Consistent with our warming climate and a greater likelihood of mild, westerly winds, there is only a small chance of the period overall being cold. However, this does not preclude the possibility of some cold spells and related impacts.

Outlook compared to normal likelihood

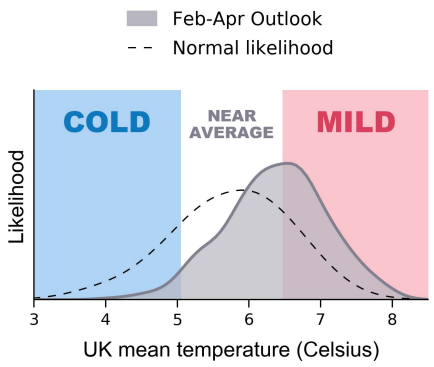
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature, precipitation and wind speed taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature, precipitation or wind speed at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

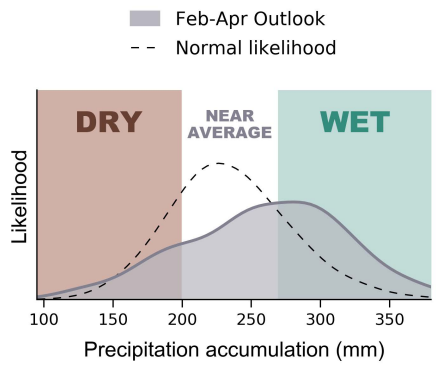
A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chances of below-average temperature, rainfall or winds. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



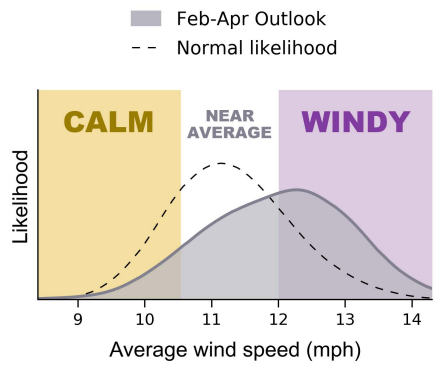
Likelihood leans towards mild

3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



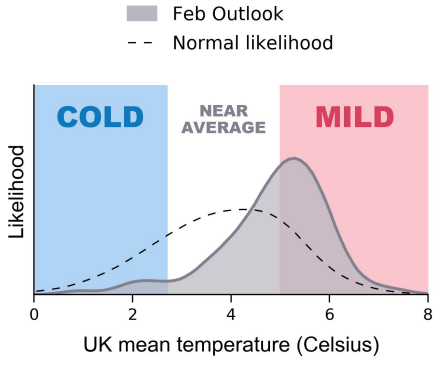
Lean towards wet

3-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



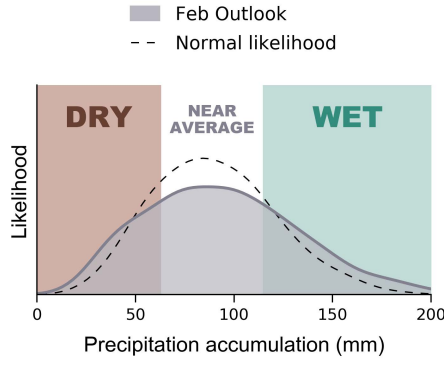
Lean towards windy

1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



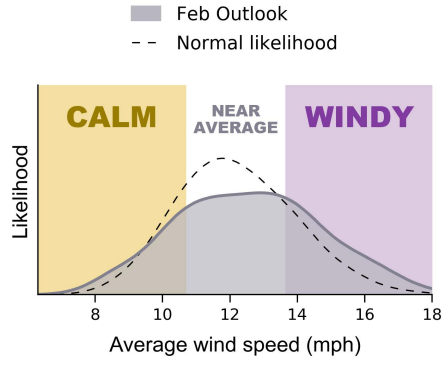
Likelihood leans towards mild

1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



Slight lean towards wet

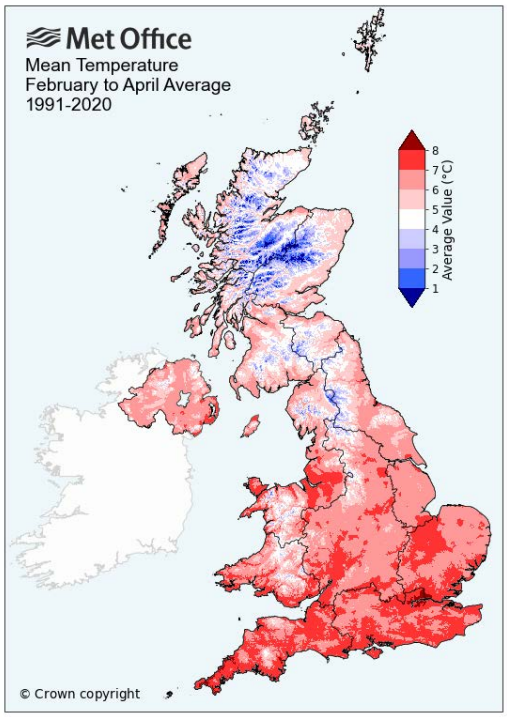
1-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



Slight lean towards windy

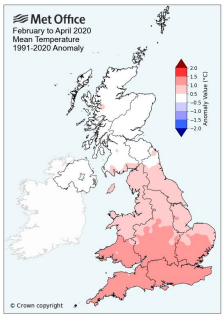
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

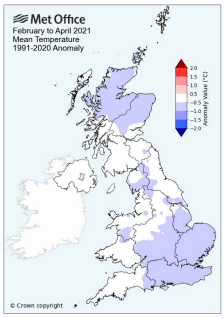


Average temperatures for February - April based on observations of past years.

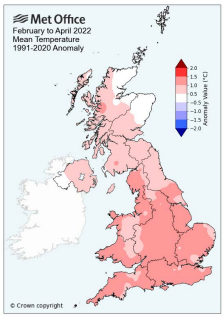
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



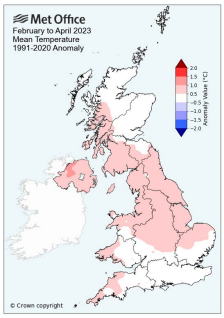
Feb - Apr 2020



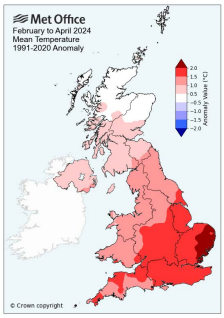
Feb - Apr 2021



Feb - Apr 2022



Feb - Apr 2023



Feb - Apr 2024

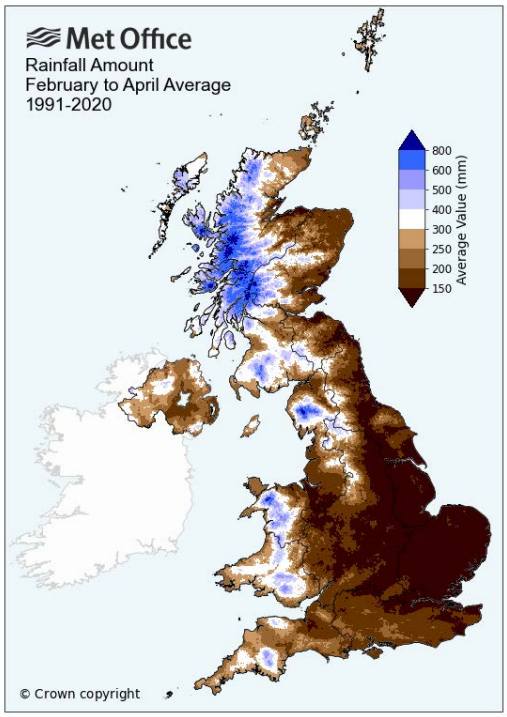
Anomaly (°C)

< -2.0	-2.0 to -1.5	-1.5 to -1.0	-1.0 to-0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.0	> 2.0

These maps show how February - April temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

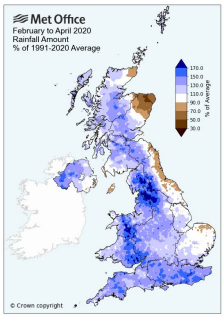
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

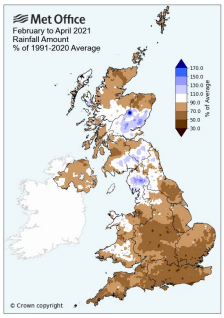


Average precipitation for February - April based on observations of past years.

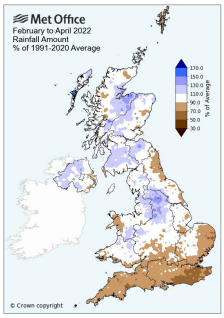
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



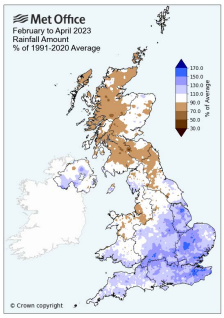
Feb - Apr 2020



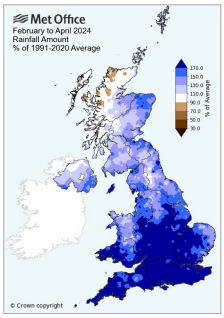
Feb - Apr 2021



Feb - Apr 2022



Feb - Apr 2023



Feb - Apr 2024

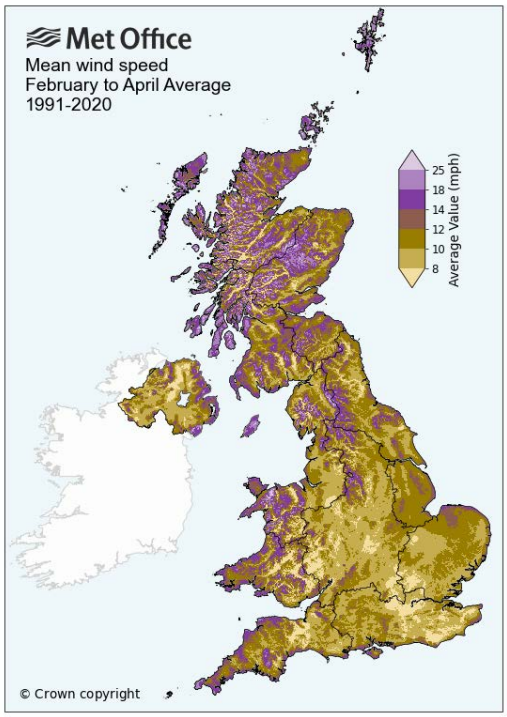
% of average

< 30	30 to 50	50 to 70	70 to 90	90 to 110	110 to 130	130 to 150	150 to 170	> 170

These maps show how February - April precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

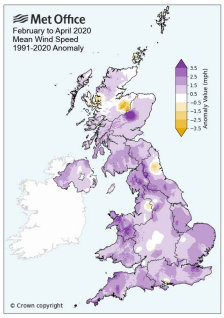
Long-term average wind speed (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

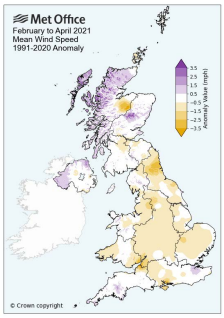


Average wind speed for February - April based on observations of past years.

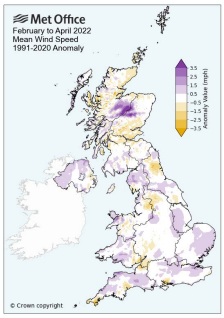
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (3-month)



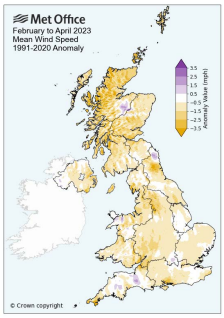
Feb - Apr 2020



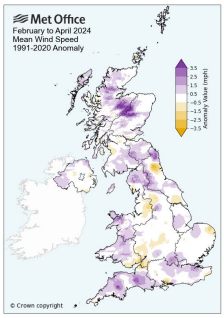
Feb - Apr 2021



Feb - Apr 2022



Feb - Apr 2023



Feb - Apr 2024

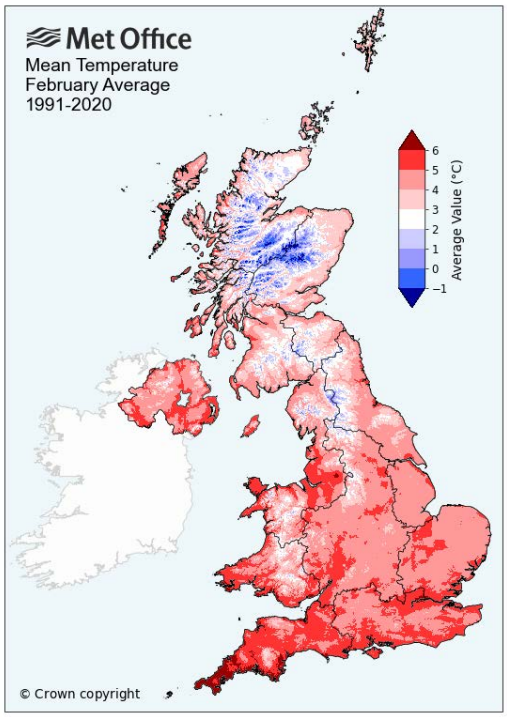
Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how February - April wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

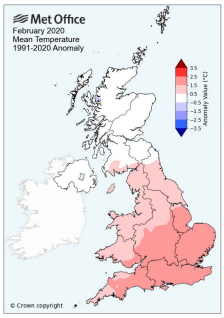
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

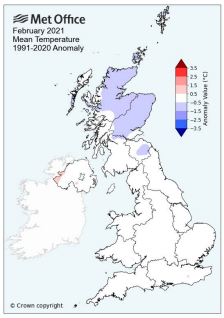


Average temperatures for February based on observations of past years.

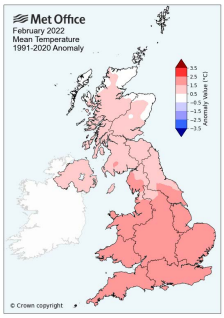
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



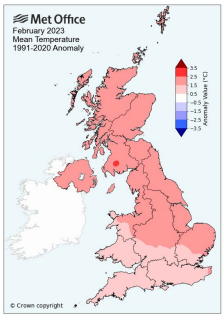
Feb 2020



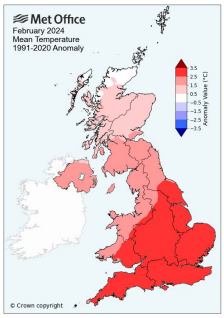
Feb 2021



Feb 2022



Feb 2023



Feb 2024

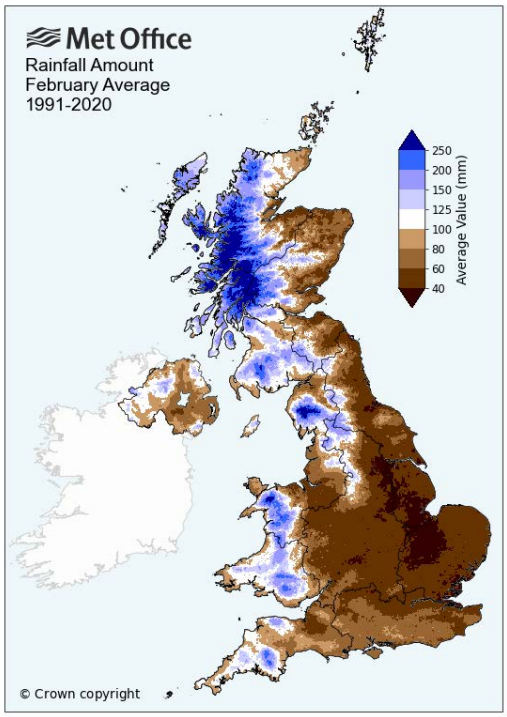
Anomaly (°C)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how February temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

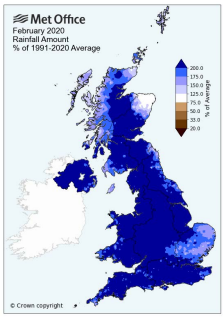
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

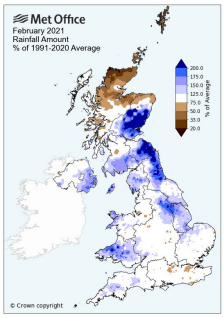


Average precipitation for February based on observations of past years.

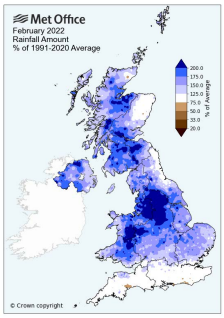
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



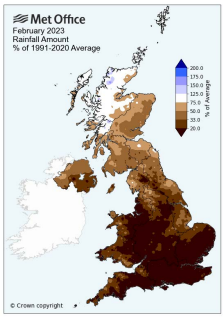
Feb 2020



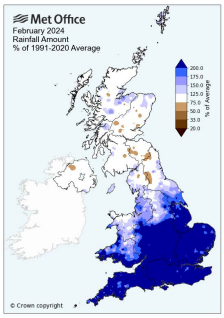
Feb 2021



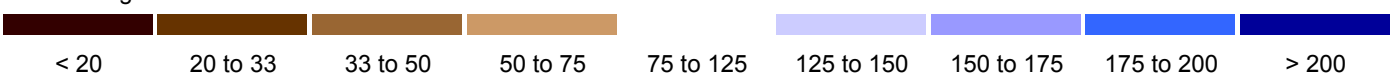
Feb 2022



Feb 2023



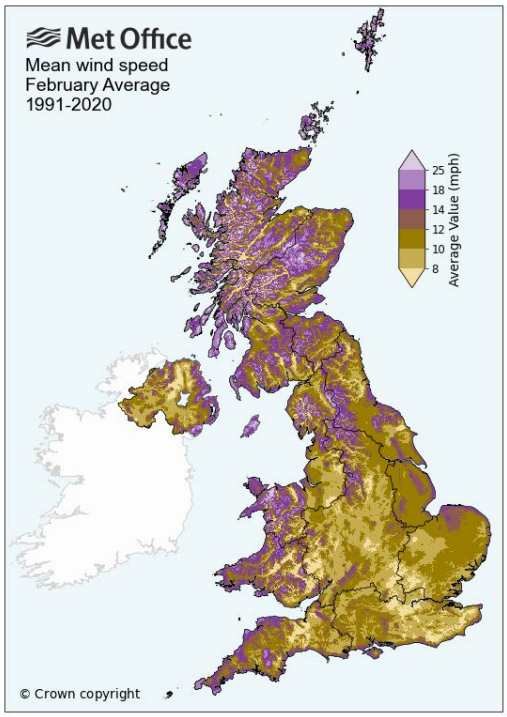
Feb 2024



These maps show how February precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

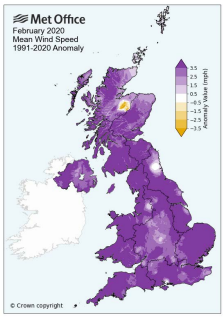
Long-term average wind speed (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

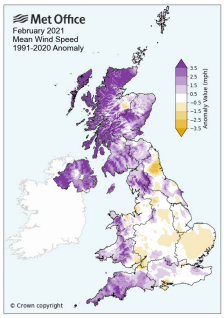


Average wind speed for February based on observations of past years.

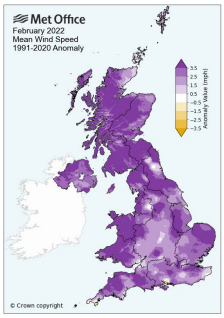
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (1-month)



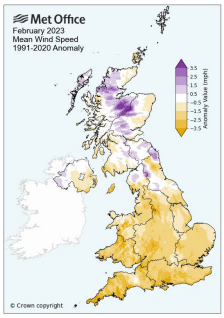
Feb 2020



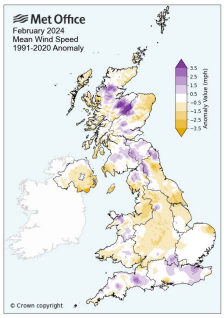
Feb 2021



Feb 2022



Feb 2023



Feb 2024

Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how February wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

Q&As

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?
A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?
A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?
A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK-average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?
A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. Wind speed refers to the average wind speed at a height of 10 metres. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature, wind speed) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1991-2020.

Find out more

- UK 3-month Outlook user guidance page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/user-guidance/user-guidance
- Explainers on climate drivers (such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation) that influence seasonal forecasts and the impacts they can have on UK weather:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/seasonal-forecasts-and-climate-drivers-resources
- Contingency planners page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index

Contact us

Website:
www.metoffice.gov.uk

Email:
enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

Provide your feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on the UK 3-month Outlook to understand how it is being used. Please fill in the short form using this link or QR code to share your thoughts.